

# Prison Crews Help Clear US 421

## Media Contact:

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Commissioner, J. David Donahue



Inmates shovel sidewalk to Westville School

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LaPorte, Indiana - (February 16, 2007) - A Westville Correctional Facility Offender Work Crew and supervising officer responded to the Town of Westville's needs during the snowstorm over the last few days to help travelers and the community.

Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue said, "The Department is always

willing and able to send offender work crews to assist in the clean up of local communities or in response to an emergency, such opportunities provide a beneficial partnership between the Department of Correction and the citizens of Indiana."

An offender work crew was requested to shovel the police headquarters and various areas around town including, the town hall, public library and a local church. The members of the Town Board then requested assistance with Highway 421, the major roadway of the community. The crew then cleared the streets to the elementary, junior high and high school compound and the walkways and driveways of elderly and disabled residents.

Westville's Lead Captain, Kenneth Gann organized this service opportunity. "Severe weather conditions called for an immediate helping hand." Gann reported many Westville citizens expressed their appreciation for the effort.

William Wilson, Facility Superintendent said, "The safety of the community within the prison and the surrounding community is important to all of us. We are happy to offer assistance to our neighbors. "

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### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.